

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:

Ralph Patrick BRAUN et al.

Title:

METHOD

Appl. No.:

10/574,922

371(c) Date:

05/22/06

Examiner:

Janice Li Qian

Art Unit:

1633

Conf. No.:

5540

AMENDMENT AND REPLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.116

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Final Office Action dated March 5, 2009, concerning the above-referenced patent application. Applicants have enclosed with this amendment a Request to Continue Examination and a Petition for Extension of Time to make this response timely.

Amendments to the Abstract are presented as a new Abstract attached to this document for insertion after the claim pages of the application (or to replace the previously submitted Abstract).

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this document.

A Replacement Abstract is provided on page 7 of this document.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this document.

Please amend the application as follows: